

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 EUR-08

IO-06 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DHA-02 /041 W

-----062676 121723Z /53

O 121500Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6235

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1115

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN PROPOSAL

1. IN DISCUSSION THIS MORNING WITH PRESIDENTIAL AIDES SERGIO VIEIRA AND FERNANDO HONWANA, DCM AND I LEARNED THAT JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE SPENT MUCH OF YESTERDAY WITH MACHEL DISCUSSING THE RHODESIAN PROPOSAL. FROM WHAT VIEIRA AND HONWANA SAID, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE NATIONALISTS, IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS, MAY BE WORKING ON A COUNTER-PROPOSAL. VIERA AND HONWANA SAID THAT NKOMO AND MUGABE SHOULD COMPLETE THEIR WORK IN ABOUT A WEEK, AT WHICH TIME NKOMO AND MUGABE WILL PROBABLY MEET WITH THE FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS TO SEE IF THEY CAN OBTAIN FRONT-LINE ENDORSEMENT OF THEIR COUNTER-PROPOSAL AND TO DISCUSS HOW TO PROCEED. (INCIDENTALLY, NKOMO LEAVES MAPUTO TODAY FOR LUSAKA; MUGABE WILL REMAIN IN MOZAMBIQUE.)

2. RESPONDING TO A COMMENT I MADE ABOUT OUR DESIRE TO SEE
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A UN REPRESENTATIVE DESIGNATED TO WORK WITH THE UK RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, VIEIRA AND HONWANA SAID THAT THE UK AND US WOULD BE WELL ADVISED NOT TO TRY TO MOVE TOO HASTILY. THEY SAID THAT WE SHOULD WAIT AT LEAST UNTIL WE HAD THE BENEFIT OF THE NATIONALISTS' AND FRONT-LINE'S REACTIONS TO THE PROPOSAL BEFORE PROCEEDING. I RESPONDED BY STRESSING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO GET ON WITH THE

JOB OF CONSULTATIONS ON CEASEFIRE AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, NO ONLY TO DISCOURAGE SMITH FROM OPTING FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, BUT TO DEMONSTRATE TO SMITH AND VORSTER THAT THE PROPOSAL HAD OVERWHELMING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AS WELL. VIEIRA AND HONWANA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS MERIT IN THESE ARGUMENTS, BUT STILL SEEMED TO THINK THAT FOR US TO SEEK SECURITY COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR SELECTION OF A UN REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE GIVING THE NATIONALISTS AND OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND COMMENT ON THE WHITE PAPER WAS RUSHING THINGS.

3. I THINK VIEIRA AND HONWANA WERE REFLECTING MACHEL. I DO NOT KNOW IF THE OTHER FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS SHARE THESE VIEWS. I FLAG THIS DISCUSSION FOR THE DEPARTMENT IN THE EVENT WE WISH TO MAKE SOME SOUNDINGS OR DO SOME ADDITIONAL SPADEWORK BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE REQUEST FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. AT A MINIMUM, I THINK WE SHOULD EXPLAIN TO NKOMO AND MUGABE (IF WE HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO) WHY WE ARE PROCEEDING AS WE ARE. VIEIRA AND HONWANA, WHO PARTICIPATED YESTERDAY IN MACHEL'S TALKS WITH MUGABE AND KNOMO, SAID THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS ARE UNHAPPY AT OUR FAILURE TO CONSULT MORE CLOSELY WITH THEM ABOUT OUR PROPOSAL.
DE PREE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MAPUTO01115
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770329-1281
Format: TEL
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770974/aaaackvz.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 860b8648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1309594
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIAN PROPOSAL
TAGS: PDEV, RH, ZA, (MUGABE, ROBERT), (NKOMO, JOSHUA), (MACHEL, SAMORA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/860b8648-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009